

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185135
ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 061445Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L S T A T E 1 8 5 1 3 5

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CFED, SA, KU, TC, US

SUBJECT: GAO SURVEY ON AVAILABILITY AND SECURITY OF US
OIL SUPPLIES

REFS: (A) STATE 133381, (B) JIDDA 4179

1. ARP MET AT SOME LENGTH AUGUST 4 WITH MR. LARRY PEGG
OF GAO WHO HAS TAKEN OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPOSED
SURVEY. HE INDICATED THAT AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF RE-
SEARCH, GAO HAD DECIDED THAT SINCE SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE
THE CRITICAL FACTOR IN ASSURING ADEQUATE WORLD OIL SUPPLIES
IN 1980S THE SURVEY WILL BE CONFINED TO SAUDI ARABIA.
KUWAIT AND ABU DHABI WILL BE DROPPED AND GAO TEAM HAS
NO PRESENT PLANS TO VISIT THOSE COUNTRIES.

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2. PEGG INDICATED THAT PRESENT THINKING IS THAT FOCUS OF
STUDY WILL BE ON WHAT FACTORS WILL INFLUENCE SAUDI
DECISIONS ON OIL PRODUCTION LEVELS AND WHAT ASPECTS OF
THE US-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON SAG
DECISIONS. OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IN ARP IS THAT GAO TEAM
IS OFF TO A GOOD START IN DEVELOPING A SOUND UNDERSTANDING

OF THE FACTORS INVOLVED AND INTENDS TO DO EXTENSIVE
RESEARCH IN WAHSINGTON, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH A WIDE
RANGE OF USG OFFICIALS, BEFORE VISITING SAUDI ARABIA IN

OCTOBER. PEG INDICATED THAT GAO IS STILL THINKING ABOUT
SPENDING FIVE WEEKS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND ARP DIRECTOR ONCE
AGAIN URGED THAT GAO THINK ALONG LINES OF A MUCH
SHORTER STAY IN COUNTRY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN TOUCH
WITH PEG IN COMING WEEKS AND WILL KEEP EMBASSY JIDDA
INFORMED. CHRISTOPHER

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